



EXPLORATIONS

Blue Hill Consolidated School

60 High Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614



January 5, 2011

Important Safety News

***Arrival at School** - Students should not be dropped off at school before 7:30 AM. When they do come at 7:30 they are to report to the cafeteria where there is supervision. At 7:40 students are then expected to go outside with the duty teachers for a 15-minute recess. We are holding students accountable to be where they are supposed to be so that they can be supervised by adults at all times for their own safety. We do not take students outside when it is dangerously cold, but on a normal winter day we expect them to be dressed appropriately for recesses so that they can all get fresh air and exercise.

***Student Drop Off and Pick Up by Parents** – Please be conscious of school safety procedures and **DO NOT park in the bus circle at any time**. This is a fire lane and a bus lane. If you need to park to wait for your child to be dismissed and the main parking lot is full, please use the gym parking lot and ask your child to exit through that door. That is actually the very best entrance to drop off and pick up students and was the original plan when the new addition was done in 1990.

Parent Portal NIGHT – Monday, January 25 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM!!!

Still having problems with using the Power School Parent Portal effectively? Still haven't gotten on the portal to track your child's progress? The PTF, Matt Jurick, and some skilled teachers are providing an evening workshop in the cafeteria to encourage more families to use this valuable tool and to

demonstrate the unique features within it. We will have laptops ready for your use and a lot of patience to help you. Refreshments will be served and babysitting will be provided by the PTF. AND, we will be offering door prizes of geeky items like flash drives, iTunes cards, and more..... Guaranteed to be a fun event!

Junior Jazzband Starting!

I would like to invite any middle school student to become a member of the BHCS 2011 Junior Jazzband! This is a great opportunity for the young players to gain experience learning to play in a jazzband and to participate in the District VI Jazz Fest. My only requirement is that the students show a commitment to attend all the rehearsals and put in practice time to learn the music. The music is fairly easy and many of the 5th graders could learn the music if they work at it.

We will rehearse before school on Thursday mornings at 7:15 starting tomorrow. Students interested in playing should be in the band room on Thursday morning at 7:15.

~~Mr. Schubeck

PTF News

Every year the PTF sponsors a Family Potluck and Variety Show in midwinter. It is always lots of fun and a great success and it features many talented performers entertaining a full house. This year it will be held on **Friday, January 21st**. If you or your student are interested in putting together an act for this event please see either Mrs. Means or Mr. Schubeck ASAP for an official *Variety Show Application*. Performers are strongly encouraged to keep their acts to a maximum of three (3) minutes due to an expected increase in participation. The family potluck begins at 5:30 PM, with entertainment at 6:15 PM.

The January **Family Movie Night will**

Della L. Martin, Principal • Loretta Smith, Secretary • Beth Jackson, Librarian • Matt Jurick, Technology Specialist

be Friday, Jan. 14. Check the newsletter next week to see what movie will be shown.

Library News

Thanks to the Wanning family for remembering BHCS with already been loved books even though their children are now in high school!

Pee Wee Basketball Games on January 8

BH 1 vs. Penobscot @ GSA - 10:00–11:30 AM
BH 2 @ Penobscot 10:30 AM -12:00 NOON

The Lefthand Canyon Trio (viola, flute, and guitar) will perform at the Blue Hill Congregational Church at 3:00 PM on Sunday, January 9th.

5-2-1-0 Tidbit

Welcome back to school everyone!! As we start the New Year, the focus for this month is going to be on the "2 hours or less of recreational screen time" and on the "1 hour or more of physical activity" every day. These are the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatricians for all kids.

I see your kids participating in a wonderful variety of activities here at school every day.....the whole gamut of sports activities, running and playing actively on the playground, reading, singing, playing an instrument, using their artistic skills and talents in art class. They do this all day, every day of the school week!!!

We are also very fortunate to have a physical education teacher who is GREAT at teaching your kids fun and healthy activities they can participate in and enjoy for the rest of their lives!!! Mr. McCormick loves to teach kids how to dance, run, play, and to safely participate in many, many physical activities that can take the place of watching too much television or spending beautiful outdoor time on the computer or hand-held video games. I know that parents also have some wonderful ideas for activities at home for their kids to participate in—sliding outdoors in the snow, ice-skating, snow-boarding are just a few of the winter activities we enjoy in Maine. Indoor activities may include reading, playing board games, putting a puzzle together, listening to

music. I know there are lots more activities I haven't even begun to mention. I would like to hear about the activities your children enjoy at home. I would also love to see them participating in these family or individual activities. I am asking everyone to send in a note and/or a picture of your child and/or the family doing what they enjoy at home for activities. I need to add some fun pictures to the bulletin board in the lobby, and would love to put your children's pictures up on this wall. Please send them in!!! Then come on in and check out the board for your child's picture. What a great way to "brag" about how healthy and active this school community actually is every day!!!

Thanks, everyone for helping me to "brag" about all of our BHCS kids and parents!!!

~Debbie Candage, School Nurse

Anti-Abduction Training for Parents

The Citizen Protection Group LLC has partnered with the Down East Family YMCA to provide FREE training to parents and guardians of children who could possibly become the targets of child abduction.

The training program has been designed following a "training the parent" model. The parents and guardians will be provided training related to anti-abduction concepts. This will allow the parents and guardians to develop their own family specific tactics and counter measures. The training will be conducted in a **one (1) hour class** that will include lecture and practical demonstrations.

The training will be presented three times throughout the day to provide an opportunity for most interested parties to attend. Please register with the YMCA by calling (207) 667-3086. Questions related to the training should be directed to The Citizen Protection Group, LLC by phone at (207) 610-0828 or by the "Contact Us" page on the website. The training is open to the public with preference given to YMCA members.

Please note: This training has been designed specifically for an adult audience and minor children WILL NOT be allowed to attend the training. Details below:

*Non-certification class / open to public

*Presented in partnership with the Down East Family YMCA by Trooper Greg Mitchell

*Cost: FREE

*Date: Saturday Jan, 22, 2011

*Time: 9:00 AM; 12:00 PM; 5:00 PM

*Location: Moore School
125 State Street
Ellsworth, ME

Peninsula Skating Association

On Tuesday evening, December 7, a meeting was held at the Blue Hill Library for the PSA Board members and officers to discuss the status and future of the PSA. Two board members, two officers and one family member were in attendance. Two options were discussed. One was to keep the PSA going as a 501C non-profit and to continue its role in managing and oversight of the skating rink. The other was to consider the alternative of approaching the town of Blue Hill about taking over the management of the rink. After discussion, it was clear that there was strong agreement on trying to keep the PSA going and the need for a new effort to increase support.

With that in mind, I have reserved the Howard Room at the library for 7 PM, Tuesday, January 11, 2011 for a general meeting. The agenda will include a discussion of the future of the PSA, the enrollment of new members, the election of a new slate of officers, the establishment of a schedule and other relevant matters. The date should be sufficient time to allow for publicity in the Weekly Packet, school newsletters and for simply getting the word out.

We currently have around \$38 in the combined checking and saving accounts. We are free of debt but we lack sufficient funds to take on any expenses, including turning the electricity on for, among other things, the lights. We should have, in my opinion as treasurer, a minimum of \$200 in our account to meet our yearly basic expenses including electricity, corporate filing fee and PO Box rent.

It would be good to have the lights on for the school vacation over the Holidays. If we could get sufficient donations/contributions between now and then we could have the power

turned on. Today we received a donation of \$50 from one person.

So please save the date. THE TURNOUT AND PARTICIPATION COULD DECIDE THE FATE OF THE ORGANIZATION. Please make a contribution if you are able and encourage others to do so. Donations may be sent to PSA, PO Box 210, Blue Hill, ME 04614. Please tell anyone you feel might be interested.

Hope to see you at the meeting. Happy Holidays!
John Gallagher
ph 374-9988

The Big Attack Acting Workshop for Teens and Adults

Saturday, January 15, 2011, 10 AM – 2 PM
Instructor: Robin Jones who has over 30 years experience in the performing arts and has been the director of the New Surry Theatre's *The Radio Show*. He has also written, directed and acted in theatre in Houston, San Francisco and Los Angeles. He is currently the Film Program Director for The Grand.

Tickets: \$15/person (limited to 12 people)

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Fri., Jan. 7 - Geography Bee, 8:15 AM

January 10 to 14 - Classroom spelling bees

Wed., Jan. 12 – School Board Mtg. at 5:00 PM

Mon., Jan. 17 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, no school

Fri., January 21 (F) – School Spelling Bee

Jan. 25 (M) – Parent Portal Meeting, 6:30 – 7:30 PM